

STAT

Hold
[redacted]
[redacted]
CLC
About spies and
spy organizations
FYI - assume [redacted]
[redacted] has a will be
in touch
LLA

STAT

THE LONDON TIMES
20 Nov 1971

Clerk on spy charge linked with Mr Lyalin

A Malaysian employed as a clerk by the Greater London Council was recruited into spying activities with Mr Oleg Lyalin, the Russian defector, and another Russian agent, Mr John Buzzard, for the prosecution, alleged at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

When committal proceedings started against the clerk, Sirioj Abdoorcader, aged 33, of Anson Road, Cricklewood, London, on four charges under the Official Secrets Act, Mr Richard Hawkins, for the defence, applied for reporting restrictions to be lifted.

Mr Buzzard said Mr Abdoorcader clearly had a hatred of Britain and a desire to assist her enemies.

Counsel said that on September 17 police saw the defendant at work and found on him three lists of car registration numbers and a card, on the back of which was written the name "O. Lyalin" with an address in Highgate, London, that of the Soviet trade delegation.

At Mr Abdoorcader's home police found telephone numbers, more registration numbers, communist literature, and other books, including *Kim Philby, the Spy I Loved*.

The officers cautioned him and he said: "I was a bloody fool. It was only for fun", Mr Buzzard alleged. At the police station he gave a somewhat different explanation. He said: "They forced me to do these things. I will tell you the truth. The dirty, rotten swines forced me to do it. These Russian swines blackmailed me into it."

Mr Buzzard said the defendant originally came to Britain to study for the Bar, but failed his examinations and took a job with the then London County

Council. "It seems clear from various things that were found, that he developed a hatred of England and the English and undoubtedly became a very suitable subject for recruitment into the Russian espionage network."

In March, 1967, he was approached by Mr Vladislav Savin, the Russian agent who was later succeeded by Mr Lyalin.

In due course the Russian started to give the defendant car registration numbers, asking him to find who the registered owners were. He was able to do this by virtue of his job in the vehicle licensing department.

The defendant passed on the details that he could obtain from files. But in some cases the numbers were in a "special category" to which only senior staff had access.

Counsel added: "The information that would be of use to Russian intelligence would be the fact that a number was on the special list, and the reason for this is that vehicles were put on this list to prevent particulars of the owners being readily available to the public." Among numbers on the special list were those of cars used by the security services.

Mr Buzzard said that in 1969, Mr Savin said he was leaving England, and introduced his successor

Alex"—Oleg Lyalin. At this stage the defendant was given a present of an electric razor from the two men.

Mr Lyalin arranged an emergency method of communication by sending a birthday card, which in fact was never used.

On various dates, most of them recorded in dairies, Mr Abdoorcader collected squashed beer cans from various "dead letter boxes" (hiding places) in Portsmouth and the Southampton area. On one occasion he was asked to put a briefcase which seemed very heavy into a car at Portsmouth. But he could not find the car.

Mr Buzzard went on: "The Crown is not in a position to give evidence of what was inside the cans or brief cases. They may have contained matter useful to an enemy, or these may have been training exercises."

Mr Lyalin asked the defendant many times about his friends. Two of them, one a post office sorter and the other a woman worker at the Ministry of Defence, were mentioned in discussions between the two.

With regard to Miss Marie Richardson, mentioned in one of the charges, the position was different, Mr Buzzard said, because her name did not come from the defendant.

She was of Asian origin and undoubtedly had a responsible job as personal assistant to the deputy director, Supplies and Transport Staff, Navy. In that job she had

access to matters classified as secret.

In the summer of 1969 she went on a cruise to Scandinavia and Leningrad, and the assistant purser made such persistent attempts to cultivate her acquaintance that she reported the matter afterwards to naval security.

Then, according to the defendant, in February, 1970, Mr Lyalin gave Mr Abdoorcader Miss Richardson's address and telephone number and told the defendant to make friends with her.

He gave the defendant money for flowers and Asian delicacies. But according to the defendant he never actually made contact with Miss Richardson.

The defendant told the police: "They threatened and blackmailed me into this. They told me I would get fixed up in serious trouble if I did not do as I was asked."

Mr Buzzard said Mr Abdoorcader had said he deeply regretted what he had done and meant no harm to Britain. This and his claim that he was blackmailed were disproved in more than one way. Among his rewards were a wrist watch, a toilet set and various sums of money, the largest of which, according to the defendant, was £100.

Mr Abdoorcader was sent in custody for trial at the Central Criminal Court on three of the charges. Mr Buzzard said they were not proceeding with the charge alleging he obtained an article at Portsmouth in February.